





by the Examiner, since the connecting link 34 and telescopic column 16 are physically separated by at least the needle carrier 12 and the joint rod 30, which act as the slide and upper toggle means of the claimed invention, respectively, as contended by the Examiner.

Thomas does not disclose all of the elements of the present invention, as set forth in claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite that "said adjusting means being pivotable to a specified angle to adjust a stroke of said slide; and said adjusting means transferring a sliding, reciprocating motion to said slide."

The sliding, reciprocating motion that is transferred to the slide is described in the Specification as follows:

An adjusting mechanism 10 is constructed from linear slider 13 and pivotable guide board 14... (See Specification, page 13, lines 7-8.)

During adjustment, guide board 14 is pivoted and the slope angle of groove 15 becomes a slope angle  $\beta$  (beta)... During the reciprocating motion of slider 13 at slope angle  $\beta$ , the motion of slider 13 is between a position of pin 12 and a position 12b. (See Specification, page 15, line 25, to page 16, line 5.)

The Examiner contends that Thomas' drive mechanism 14 acts as the adjusting means of the claimed invention. However, Thomas' invention does not include an adjusting means that is pivotable about a specified angle and that is capable of transferring a sliding, reciprocating motion to the slide, as required in the claimed invention. Thomas' connecting rod 22 is driven by the rotation of crankshaft 18; however, the ends of the connecting rod 22 are fixed with respect to the crankshaft 18 and the connecting link 34. Thus, the connecting rod 22 does not slide, and the motion that is transferred to the needle carrier 12 (the slide, as contended by the Examiner) is not a sliding motion.

Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-3 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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